

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN INDIA

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*Women's entrepreneurship is an important component of human resource development. Women entrepreneurs play a critical role in the worldwide search for long-term economic and social improvement. Despite the fact that women have played an important part in India's culture, their entrepreneurial potential has been underutilized owing to women's inferior social position. The term entrepreneur comes from the French word *entreprendre*, which means "to take on." In general, an entrepreneur is someone who uses money and labour to produce something. A small scale industrial unit, industry-related service or business enterprise managed by one or more women entrepreneurs in a concern in which they individually or jointly have a share capital of not less than 51 percent as shareholders of a private limited company, members of a co-operative society. Present paper aims to examine the status of women enterprises in India. Women's entrepreneurship is an important component of human resource development. Women entrepreneurs play a critical role in the worldwide search for long-term economic and social improvement. Despite the fact that women have played an important part in India's culture, their entrepreneurial potential has been underutilized owing to women's inferior social position. The term entrepreneur comes from the French word *entreprendre*, which means "to take on." In general, an entrepreneur is someone who uses money and labour to produce something. A small scale industrial unit, industry-related service or business enterprise managed by one or more women entrepreneurs in a concern in which they individually or jointly have a share capital of not less than 51 percent as shareholders of a private limited company, members of a co-operative society. Present paper aims to examine the status of women enterprises in India.*

INTRODUCTION

Women are essential contributors to India's economy and contributors to development. Their empowerment is critical for the nation's progress and distributive fairness. Gender mainstreaming and empowerment need gender-inclusive national development strategies. All macro policies and financial support for their execution would incorporate a gender component in engineered development plans. The Government of India has made significant promises to gender equality in public policy and budgeting. There are three fundamental components to gender budgeting. One, women's empowerment must be comprehensive, including political, social, and economic ramifications. In terms of equal opportunity, it should be universal. The second factor is that it should be inclusive and participatory. This necessitates a bottom-to-top approach to planning, policy, and execution, with women having a voice from the grass roots to the highest levels of authority. The requirement for convergence is the third component of gender budgeting. Access to health and nutrition, water and sanitation, asset-based marketing, credit,

technology, education and skills, political engagement, and other issues are all important to women. For engendering and inclusive development, convergence of development policies, programmes, schemes, and institutional resources is essential. Existing urban development plans and programmes must also be revised so that gender problems may be integrated and their concerns adequately handled.

The backbone of economic progress has long been seen to be skill development. It is commonly understood that an area's degree of economic development is largely determined by the amount of entrepreneurial activity in that region. Capable entrepreneurs are taking use of the chances presented by the changing environment in a period of liberalization, privatization, and globalization, as well as the current Information Technology revolution. Though India's educational performance has improved, there is a rising shortage of trained labour. As a result, skill development and entrepreneurial development training for this demographic is required in order to integrate them into the current economic growth and development process. Upgrading one's skills and starting a business have long been seen as the cornerstones of economic progress. It is commonly understood that an area's degree of economic development is largely determined by the amount of entrepreneurial activity in that region. As a result, one of the most important factors for the growth of micro and small businesses (MSEs), especially for first-generation entrepreneurs, is entrepreneurship skill development and training. There are about 470 million people under the age of 18 in India. India's ability to reap a demographic dividend from its rapidly growing young population is often mentioned, but without the caveat that should come with it. India's demographic dividend would not be realised until its young are able to work. The Indian government is acutely aware of the need to provide job possibilities for its young via skill development. In India, the National Skill Development Corporation is a first-of-its-kind public-private collaboration. Its goal is to encourage the formation of big, high-quality, for-profit vocational schools in order to foster skill development. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is the government of India's flagship initiative, which is administered by the National Skill Development Corporation, which is part of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Industry is also seeing an increase in corporate and public sector enterprises coming forward and investing in the country's youth through CSR initiatives that support skill development through various partnerships such as financing, providing infrastructure, recognition of prior learning, adoption of national qualification framework and occupational standards, and so on. However, maintaining track of the industry's workforce needs and the infrastructure required to meet skilling goals is a difficult issue for skill India. Skill development is an effective instrument for overcoming social exclusion; nevertheless, it is vital to track the outcomes of education, knowledge, and training in terms of improved employability, which would promote not just labour market access but also social inclusion. In India, skill development is insufficient to alleviate the unemployment issue. There is also a need to provide work possibilities for young people, women, and the disadvantaged. India's economic and social progress depends on skill development.

In most nations, micro-enterprise development and microfinance have been extensively accepted as anti-poverty solutions. Micro businesses have long been recognized as a source of economic growth and development. One of the fastest expanding segments

of micro-enterprises is women-owned firms. Micro-enterprise assistance programmes are designed to assist persons with limited resources in starting, growing, and expanding extremely small firms. Self-employment is encouraged to a significant extent by micro-enterprises. Microenterprise success depends on the availability of financial services to self-help organizations. Micro-entrepreneurs exist on the periphery of the microfinance industry, which is part of the informal economy. The unique use of self-help organizations and joint liability groups to give loans to individuals without collateral is key to microenterprise development's success. Micro businesses may be successful, but development is typically sluggish, resulting in only little improvements in the lives of the poor and their family income levels. Micro-enterprises, defined as organizations with one to 10 employees, take use of labour supply features in LDCs to improve capital/labor function (Puglielli, 2003). Micro-enterprises are special types of businesses with specific financial demands that are often classed as micro-loans or micro-credit. Micro-credit initiatives are aimed to assist the needy with tiny amounts of capital so that they may produce their own income. Despite the fact that micro-loans constitute a large and rising portion of economic activity in developing nations, they remain outside of the official economic system and, in particular, lack access to bank credit.

STATUS OF WOMEN ENTERPRISES

Woman entrepreneurs are divided into three categories: women bosses wives, women employers, and women own account workers. These categories are based on how women began their businesses with the assistance of others. The term “women employers” refers to women who give paid employment possibilities to others. Women who work on their own accounts are self-employed company entrepreneurs who do not employ others. The term “bossess wives” refers to the women who, despite their husbands’ best efforts, are the true managers of their husbands’ businesses. Women entrepreneurs contribute significantly to the Indian economy (Verma, 2015). Nearly three million micro, small, and medium businesses are owned entirely or partially by women. Over 8 million people are employed by these women-owned businesses, which account for 3.09 percent of total industrial production (Trivedi and Gaur, 2015). The majority of women-owned MSMEs were discovered to be unregistered (89.50 per cent). In macro companies, the share of unregistered units was high (90.64 per cent). Micro firms accounted for 97.62 percent of all women-owned businesses. MSMEs owned by women made up around 10% of all MSMEs (Table 1).

Table1: Classification of Women-Owned MSMEs

Category	Registered	Unregistered	Total	Total versus all women-owned businesses (percent)	Total versus all MSMEs (percent)
Micro	274,059	2,655,318	2,929,377	97.62	9.40
Small	40,722	30,414	71,136	2.37	0.23
Medium	276	-	276	0.01	0.01
Total	315,057	2,685,732	3,000,789	100.00	10.25

Source: Women Owned Business in India

Benefits of women entrepreneurship are shown in Table 2. A women entrepreneur significantly contributes in the economy of the nation. Entrepreneurship builds confidence

among women while their social and economic status significantly improves. Moreover, women entrepreneurs contribute significantly in the income of family and thus, there is more scope for development of children and creation of household assets.

Table 2: The Benefits of Women Entrepreneurship-Empowerment

S. No.	Benefits of Entrepreneurship	Empowerment
A	Rise in economic status	Increased income Increased consumption Control over spending Confidence in sustaining trend
B	Self worth	Finds greater ability to lead To work in groups To resolve conflict Freedom to make business life and own decision in life
C	Self confidence	Gets recognition in work To be proactive To face critics To take risks (calculated risk)
D	Social status	To influence others Positive image More gender equality Sociability-net working Involvement in community works Involvement in political activities Encouraging other women to entrepreneurship

Source: Fazalbhoy, Sabiha ,2014

Overall, 1/3rd registered units consisted of women enterprises. This was found slightly high in the state of Uttar Pradesh (39.84 per cent) followed by Gujarat (39.72 per cent) and Kerala (38.91 per cent) (Table 3).

Table 3: Women Entrepreneurship in India

States	No of Units Registered	No. of Women Entrepreneurs	Percentage
Tamil Nadu	9,618	2,930	30.36
Uttar Pradesh	7,980	3,180	39.84
Kerala	5,487	2,135	38.91
Punjab	4,791	1,618	33.77
Maharashtra	4,339	1,394	32.12
Gujarat	3,872	1,538	39.72
Karnataka	3,822	1,026	26.84
Madhya Pradesh	2,967	842	28.38
Other States and UTs	1,4576	4,185	28.71
Total	57,452	18,848	32.82

Source: Ministry of MSME, 2013

There are about 0.99 million enterprises managed by women while 10.6 million enterprises were recorded women enterprises in India during the third census of small scale industries in 2020. The major states where a large number of such enterprises were reported include Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West

Bengal, Madhya Pradesh m, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (Table 4).

Table 4: State Wise Women Ownership In SSI Sector in India

S. No.	Name of State	No. of Enterprises Managed By Women	No. of Women Enterprises
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	5640	5742
2.	Himachal Pradesh	3515	3722
3.	Punjab	30190	29068
4.	Chandigarh	2059	2243
5.	Uttaranchal	8706	8804
6.	Haryana	10087	9620
7.	Delhi	13368	14383
8.	Rajasthan	29785	36371
9.	Uttar Pradesh	54491	72667
10.	Bihar	38170	49443
11.	Assam	11189	11757
12.	West Bengal	71847	69625
13.	Jharkhand	7271	7865
14.	Orissa	33274	38233
15.	Chhattisgarh	11766	10034
16.	Madhya Pradesh	62351	68823
17.	Gujarat	55361	53703
18.	Maharashtra	80662	100670
19.	Andhra Pradesh	77347	77166
20.	Karnataka	101264	103169
21.	Goa	677	810
22.	Kerala	137561	139225
23.	Tamil Nadu	130289	129808
	All India	995141	1063721

Source: Thirst Census of SSIs, MSME, April,2020

The women employment in enterprises is shown in table 5. Overall, women employment accounted for 13.31 percent in the enterprises, however, Kerala, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and accounted for large share. Karnataka, The share of women employment in these enterprises in Uttar Pradesh was recorded just 5.11 percent.

Table 5: State Wise Employment Of Females In SSI Sector

S. No.	Name of State/ UT	No. Of Female Employees			Percentage of Women Employees
		Registered SSI sector	In Registered SSI sector	Total	
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	3313	8153	11466	7.51
2.	Himachal Pradesh	4016	4134	8150	6.26
3.	Punjab	11757	36013	47770	5.26
4.	Chandigarh	659	1975	2634	5.46
5.	Uttaranchal	2940	13240	16180	8.28
6.	Haryana	15651	14889	30540	5.52
7.	Delhi	6306	35798	42104	6.72
8.	Rajasthan	15003	46065	61068	7.04
9.	Uttar Pradesh	23506	180918	204424	5.11
10.	Bihar	8353	68908	77261	7.14
18.	Assam	9077	16988	26065	6.08

19.	West Bengal	26549	304969	331518	15.28
20.	Jharkhand	5105	8907	14012	5.08
21.	Orissa	11723	213123	224846	24.36
22.	Chhattisgarh	10177	52476	62653	11.78
23.	Madhya Pradesh	29612	111703	141315	10.51
24.	Gujarat	41189	79990	121179	9.57
27.	Maharashtra	78731	162700	241431	11.77
28.	Andhra Pradesh	60693	270026	330719	15.46
29.	Karnataka	117934	223142	341076	20.81
32.	Kerala	189640	224491	414131	37.15
33.	Tamil Nadu	270936	223050	493986	24.48
	All India	974713	2342783	3317496	13.31

Source: Third Census of SSIs, MSME, April,2020

Approximately 78 percent of women-owned businesses are in the service industry. Nearly 98 percent of women-owned companies are micro-enterprises, indicating that women's entrepreneurship is oriented toward smaller businesses. Access to official financing is a critical impediment to the expansion of women-owned firms, as it is in the larger MSME sector, with over 90% of funding needs satisfied via informal sources (Diwakar and Ahmed, 2015). Table 4.6 shows the geographic distribution of women-owned MSMEs. Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal account for 51.9 percent of all women-owned enterprises in India, whereas Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, and Odisha account for 26.7 percent.

Table 6: Geographical Distribution of Women-Owned MSMEs

Prevalence of women-owned businesses	State-wise Share (Percent)	Number of states/union territories	States/union territories	Combined share (Percent)
High	>10.00	4	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal	51.9
Medium	5.00-10.00	2	Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh	11.5
Low	2.00-4.99	7	Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Odisha	26.7
Very Low	<1.99	20	Rest of India	9.9

Source: Women Owned Business in India

In 2012, women-owned MSMEs in India need roughly Rs. 8.68 trillion (\$158 billion) in overall financing. Small businesses dominated the need for finance within the category, accounting for almost 74 percent of the overall requirement, or Rs 6.42 trillion (\$116 billion) in India. The reason for this was mostly owing to unfulfilled working capital and investment financing requirements. Micro firms accounted for 24% of the total, with a demand of 2.05 trillion rupees (\$37 billion). The majority of this requirement was centred on working capital requirements (Table 7). Women-owned medium-sized firms, which make up 0.01 percent of the entire MSME sector, had financial needs of roughly Indian rupees 0.21 trillion (\$4 billion), or around 2% of the total (IFC, 2014).

Table 7: Demand for Financing from Women-Owned MSMEs

Type	Formal Sector		Informal Sector	
	Number of units (in thousands)	Financing demand Indian rupees trillion (\$ billion)	Number of units (in thousands)	Financing demand Indian rupees trillion (\$ billion)
Micro	274.06	0.19 (3.49)	2,655.32	1.86 (33.86)
Small	47.53	3.91 (71.16)	30.41	2.50 (45.54)
Medium	0.28	0.21 (3.75)	0.00	0.00 (0.00)
Total	321.86	4.31 (78.40)	2,685.73	4.37 (79.40)

Source: Women Owned Business in India

Women make significant contributions to India's economy and play a vital role in growth. Their empowerment is critical for the nation's progress and distributive fairness. Gender mainstreaming and empowerment need gender-inclusive national development strategies. All macro policies and financial support for their execution would incorporate a gender component in engineered development plans. The Government of India has made significant promises to gender equality in public policy and budgeting. There are three fundamental components to gender budgeting. One, women's empowerment must be comprehensive, including political, social, and economic ramifications. In terms of equal opportunity, it should be universal. The second factor is that it should be inclusive and participatory. This necessitates a bottom-to-top approach to planning, policy, and execution, with women having a voice from the grass roots to the highest levels of authority. The requirement for convergence is the third component of gender budgeting. Access to health and nutrition, water and sanitation, asset-based marketing, credit, technology, education and skills, political engagement, and other issues are all important to women. For engendering and inclusive development, convergence of development policies, programmes, schemes, and institutional resources is essential. Existing urban development plans and programmes must also be revised so that gender problems may be integrated and their concerns adequately handled.

CONCLUSION

Women's entrepreneurship is an important component of human resource development. In India, women entrepreneurs are divided into three categories. The first group includes businesses based in major cities, with advanced technical and professional credentials, involved in the manufacturing and sale of non-traditional goods, and entrepreneurs in good financial standing. The second group of women entrepreneurs includes businesses in cities and towns, women with appropriate education, businesses that deal with both conventional and non-traditional commodities and activities, and women's services such as kindergartens, crèches, beauty salons, and health clinics. Women who are uneducated, financially insecure, and active in family businesses such as agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy, fishery, agro forestry, handloom, power loom, and so on make up the third group of women entrepreneurs. As a result, one of the most important factors for the growth of micro and small businesses (MSEs), especially for first-generation entrepreneurs, is entrepreneurship development and training. In India, skill development is a multifaceted problem. A considerable chunk of the current workforce need various degrees of skill training assistance. The existing yearly skilling capacity is insufficient to meet this need, with many projects being uncoordinated and unaligned. The problem

is further compounded by the fact that various states have varied demographic realities, resulting in a wide range of skilling requirements and obstacles. Vocational training is included in the Concurrent List, which indicates that state governments play a critical role in achieving the “Skill India” goal. However, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will play a critical role in coordinating efforts among a variety of stakeholders, including skill training providers, governments at all levels, and end users.

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